

Amendments to the claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listings of the claims with the following amended claims:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (previously presented) A decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate surface,  
2 the medium comprising:
  - 3 a. a water-based emulsion body;
  - 4 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,  
5 wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated after application to the  
6 substrate surface; and
  - 7 c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1-aza-3,7-  
8 dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-  
9 one, and Phenoxyethanol.
- 1 2. (original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the water-based emulsion body  
2 comprises an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener.
- 1 3. (original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from  
2 the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-  
3 Ethylene Terpolymer and a Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.
- 1 4. (previously presented) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is in  
2 a range of 25 to 95 percent of a total weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 5. (previously presented) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the decorating  
2 medium has a viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise in a pH range of 7.0 to  
3 9.0.
- 1 6. (original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range  
2 of 0.5 to 10 % percent of the weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 7. (previously presented) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the preservative is in  
2 the range of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of total weight of the medium.

8. (canceled).

9. (original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene Chloride polymer encapsulating an alkane blowing agent.

10. (original) The decorating medium of claim 9, wherein the blowing agent is Isobutane.

11. (previously presented) A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:  
a. a water based heat curable and expandable medium;  
b. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable and expandable medium; and  
c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-one, Phenoxyethanol.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the decorating additive is a coloring agent selected from the group consisting of ink, dye, food coloring, acrylic paint, finger paint and tempera paint.

13. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the water based heat curable and expandable medium comprises:  
a. an emulsion body comprising an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener or a cellulosic thickener; and  
b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein, wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated to temperatures below 140 Celsius.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-Ethylene Terpolymer and Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is in a range of 25 to 95 percent of a total weight of the medium.

- 1 16. (previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the decorating medium has a  
2 viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise in a pH range of 7.0 to 9.0.
- 1 17. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range  
2 of 0.5 to 10 percent of a weight of the medium.
- 1 18. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the preservative is in a range of  
2 0.005 to 0.50 percent of a total weight of the medium.
- 1 19. (canceled).
- 1 20. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene  
2 Chloride polymer emulsifying an alkane blowing agent.
- 1 21. (previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the alkane blowing agent is  
2 Isobutane.
- 1 Claims 22-41 (canceled).